

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 22, 24-31 and 40 without prejudice and accept amended claims 1, 3 and 23 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to an electronic profile of a first client to a second client comprising the steps of:

creating a network accessible electronic profile of the first client, wherein the electronic profile is accessible by an active object, wherein the active object is bound to the electronic profile;

defining an access right of the second client, wherein the access right determines a portion of the electronic profile ~~of available~~ accessible to the second client via the active object;

verifying an identity of the second client; ~~and~~

providing access to the portion electronic profile to the second client via the active object, wherein the active object is transferable;

storing a contract template, wherein the contract template comprises a plurality of roles and a plurality of access rights, wherein each role is associated with at least one access right;

staffing each role with one of the first client and the second client, wherein the first client and the second client each provide access to corresponding electronic profiles accessible by corresponding active objects; and

assigning access rights to the first client and second client according to the contract template and the active objects.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining a second access right of a third client wherein the access right determines a portion of the electronic profile available to the third client via the active object.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the active object is ~~an~~ a network accessible active object.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein electronic profile comprises location information of the first client.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein electronic profile comprises status information of the first client.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein electronic profile comprises a communication channel of the first client.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of defining the access right further comprises the step of defining the access right according to a predefined access right specifying a portion of the electronic profile accessible to the second client.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic profile is associated with one or more clients.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting the portion of the electronic profile provided by the active object according to a preference of the second client.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the active object enables the second client to contact the first client.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps:

specifying, in the electronic profile, a communication channel of the first client accessible to the second client; and

establishing the communication channel between the first client and the second client upon selecting the communication channel, wherein the active object comprises means for selecting the communication channel.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic profile notifies the first client upon an access of the electronic profile.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first client and the second client is a role satisfied by one or more users.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of specifying means for transacting funds.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the means for transacting funds is specified in the electronic profile.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of charging a fee for transacting funds between the first client and the second client.
17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the means for transacting funds dynamically determines one of a source and a destination of funds of the first client according to a property of the transaction.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of authenticated the electronic profile.
19. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of authenticating information disclosed by the electronic profile.
20. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically modifying the access right of the second client according to a variable defined in the electronic profile.
21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the access right changes over time as a function of a relationship between the first party and the second party.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing access to an electronic profile of a first client to a second client, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a network accessible electronic profile of the first client, wherein the electronic profile is accessible by an active object, wherein the active object is bound to the electronic profile;

defining an access right of the second client, wherein the access right determines a portion of the electronic profile ~~of available~~ accessible to the second client via the active object;

verifying an identity of the second client; and

providing access to the portion electronic profile to the second client via the active object, wherein the active object is transferable;

storing a contract template, wherein the contract template comprises a plurality of roles and a plurality of access rights, wherein each role is associated with at least one access right;

staffing each role with one of the first client and the second client, wherein the first client and the second client each provide access to corresponding electronic profiles accessible by corresponding active objects; and

assigning access rights to the first client and second client according to the contract template and the active objects.

24-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A method for opening a communications channel between at least two clients comprises the steps of:

specifying, at a database storing an electronic profile, a communication channel accessible to a second client, wherein the database is connected to a network;

polling the electronic profile for the communication channel accessible to the second client;

providing an indication of a specified communication channel to the second client;

selecting means for establishing the communication channel accessible to the second client; and

establishing the communication channel between the first client and the second client.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the electronic profile is accessible to the second client via a network accessible active object using a synchronous communication means.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the electronic profile is accessible to the second client via a network accessible active object using an asynchronous means.

35. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein access to the electronic profile is made available to the second client by giving the second client a network address corresponding to the electronic profile.

36. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of providing a representation of the communication channel, wherein the representation includes an indication of whether the channel is available.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the representation of the communications channel includes an indication of a preferred channel.

38. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring a status of the communication channel; and

establishing the communication channel upon determining that a resource related to the communication channel is available.

39. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein at least one of the first client and the second client is a role satisfied by one or more users.

40. (Cancelled)